



## The Penans in Belaga are Waiting

Rev Law Hui Seng, Pastor-in-charge,  
Grace Methodist Church, Miri

I believe the history in Acts 13:1-3 will be replayed in our annual conference, especially in the work among the Penan people. "In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.' So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off."

When I think of the 14 missionaries needed to serve in the 7 longhouses among the Penans in Belaga area, this precious historical passage comes to mind. We need 14 missionaries serving in the 7 longhouses; 2 sisters have responded but where are the other 12?



Some of the Penans from the longhouses.



When will the teacher come?



Children always ready to respond.

Unless we are willing to sacrifice and pay the price in fasting and praying as the early church did, we will not have "Paul" and "Barnabas" stepping forward. They were a result of fasting and praying. Our 12 local missionaries should also be born out of fasting and praying. Are you willing to respond to the need of 1,500 Penans and be missionaries among them (for a term of four years)? Will you fast and pray about it?

### Seven Reasons Why You Should Invest In This Ministry.

1. We need to respond to the Great Commission in Matt 28:19-20, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded

you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age." We must be faithful to these two verses. The Penan people are one of the many people groups. If you win them over to Jesus Christ, they and their descendants will know God and become disciples of Jesus Christ.

2. We need someone who is loving and is able to teach BM to the Penans. About 90% of the Penans are uneducated. They also do not have the financial ability to send their children to government schools located some distance away. Our annual conference has more than 80,000 members. Is it not possible for 12 to respond to this call?

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# Christian Teachers' Day: Staying the Course

Saturday, 20th June 2009 is a day to remember for about 300 teachers in the Klang Valley as they joined in the Christian Teachers' Day Celebration 2009. Held at St Paul's Church, Petaling Jaya, this annual event to inspire the commitment of Christian teachers was organized by the Malayan Christian Schools Council in collaboration with the Catholic Teachers' Association, the Teachers' Christian Fellowship and Scripture Union.

The theme this year was 'Staying the Course'. Those present were greatly blessed by the wit, insight as well as wealth of knowledge and experience shared by the speaker, Miss Seah Jiak Choo, the recently retired Director-General of Education in Singapore. In her inspiring talk, Miss Seah shared poignant anecdotes in the course of her distinguished career as teacher, Ministry of Education officer and finally as Director-General of Education.

Miss Seah captivated her audience by touching on the realities and challenges in present-day teaching and why teachers need to stay the course and be faithful to their calling as teachers. She started her

message with John 17:4. Jesus brought glory to the Father by completing the work He (the Father) had sent Him to do. Likewise we bring glory to God on earth by completing the work He gave us to do. Paul, the apostle was able to say "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race..." (2 Tim 4:7), in other words, 'I have stayed the course and finished the work.' Jesus came to serve. Service involves sacrifice. For Jesus it was the ultimate sacrifice. If we pursue service to others as service to God, our lives would have meaning and focus. As teachers, we can glorify God by serving our schools and each child we teach has a chance to be touched by us. She urged teachers to rethink what is driving them as teachers, how to stay the course and follow the example of Jesus. Her talk stressed on three important things Christian teachers should do to stay the course. Firstly, as teachers we should be driven by a purpose; a compelling God-given purpose to complete the work He has given each one of us to do. Secondly, to stay the course, discipline is needed; the discipline of controlling oneself and the discipline of consistency of values. Thirdly, teachers need to be energized



The speaker for the day – Miss Seah Jiak Choo

by renewal; teachers need a supply of resources and need to draw upon the grace of God to continually stay on course.

The celebration which started with a time of praise and worship led by Mr Michael Lee of Methodist College ended with a closing prayer by the Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of West Malaysia, Rt Rev Ng Moon Hing. This was followed by high-tea and a time of fellowship at the Dewan St Paul.

*Ms Tay Choon Neo*  
Deputy Executive Director  
Council of Education



The late Brother Lawrence and the late Mr D.R. Daniel taken at the 50th Anniversary of MCSC in 2007.

## Brother Lawrence Spitzig (1918-2009)

We give thanks to God for the life of La Sallian Brother Datuk Lawrence Spitzig, the former director of St. John's Institution Kuala Lumpur and a former Chairman of the Malayan Christian Schools' Council, who dedicated more than six decades of his life to education and youth in Malaysia.

Born on 4 February 1918 in Toronto, Canada, Brother Lawrence started as a temporary La Salle Brother in 1935. He said, "I joined the Brothers because I felt attracted to their way of life and

their unconditional commitment to a great cause – education. I wanted to be a teacher just like them." He served faithfully in the field of teaching and helping the underprivileged in both Peninsular and East Malaysia. The Lord took this faithful son home on 18 August 2009 at the age of 91.

Brother Lawrence's concept of a school "... not a 'filling station'. It is a formation centre. A place where young minds and lives are shaped as we impart knowledge and spiritual values to them."

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Bishop Dr. Hwa Yung

**Executive Editor**  
Mr Christopher Cheah

**Editorial Board / 编辑委员会**  
Rev Ling Heu Uh  
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Mr Wong Meng Lei  
Mr Tung Kam Seng  
Ms Lily Ung

*All correspondence and enquiries to be directed to:*

**Pelita Methodist**  
69 Jalan 5/31, 46000 Petaling Jaya  
Selangor Darul Ehsan  
**E-mail**  
• [pelita@methodistchurch.org.my](mailto:pelita@methodistchurch.org.my)  
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## What is Happening in our Annual Conferences?

### September

04-06	Fri-Sun	TRAC National Youth Counselors Retreat
07-09	Mon-Wed	SPAC Executive Board Meeting
10-13	Thu-Sun	TRAC Board of Ministry, President/DS, Joint Boards/Executive Board Meetings
22-23	Tue-Wed	SCAC Board of Christian Education – Discipleship Teacher Training
22-27	Tue-Sun	World Methodist Council, Chile
25-27	Fri-Sun	TRAC BB/GB Consultation

### October

02-04	Fri-Sun	TRAC Spiritual Formation & Leadership Weekend 2 - Melaka
08-09	Thu-Fri	TAC DS/Board of Ministry, Finance & Executive Board
10	Sat	SPAC West District Conference
16	Fri	SPAC BM District Conference
16-17	Fri-Sat	SCAC Methodist Seniors Fellowship Convention
17	Sat	SPAC East District Conference
19-22	Mon-Thu	SCAC Board meetings
23-25	Fri-Sun	TAC Methodist Seniors Fellowship Camp
24	Sat	SCAC Methodist Women – En Ling Centre 20th Anniversary Celebration

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# The Ten Commandments: Precepts for God's People (10)

## YOU SHALL NOT COVET

Rev Dr Mark Chua

The last commandment of the Decalogue states: "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor" (Ex 20:17 NIV).

It is commonly noted that this last commandment deals not so much with actions (such as theft, murder or adultery) but with the attitude of the heart. "God's searchlight moves from actions to attitudes, from motions to motives and from forbidden deeds to forbidden desires," so writes J.I. Packer.

### ITS MEANING

The Hebrew word for covet (*hamad*) is a neutral word which means "desire" or "take pleasure in." We are all creatures of desires. That is what drives us to be what we are – to do our best, be creative, and to pursue ambitions in life, be they in career, sports, marriage or family life. Not all desires or pleasures are sinful as such. Within the church, the apostle Paul tells us to "covet earnestly the best gifts" which will build up the Body of Christ (1 Cor 12:31).

The problem is when our desires become misdirected and disordered. This is what this commandment is all about. When our thoughts and emotions are mixed in the miry clay of our sinful desires, they drag and entice us. Those desires may be sexual ('covet your neighbor's wife'), or relating to property or status ('manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey'). Lest we think we are out of such danger zone, the scriptures add, "or anything that belong to your neighbor." Coveting, as Philip G. Ryken pointed out, is not simply desiring something that we don't have, but wanting and hankering after something that someone else has. It is the sin of desire.

Coveting appears harmless and for many, it is only a minor sin. After all it occurs in the depth of the human heart and does no direct harm against one's neighbour. In today's terms this

may be cars, houses, computers, iPods, clothing, designer labels, appliances, entertainment, fashion or even vacation. Such desires, however, when left unchecked, can become destructive.

### ITS DANGERS

King David saw beautiful Bathsheba and desired after her. He brought her in, thus committing the sin of stealing (breaking the 8th commandment). This led to adultery (breaking the 7th commandment). He then arranged for her husband, Uriah, to come back from war front duties on the pretext of showing concern for his welfare (breaking the 9th commandment). Eventually David planned for Uriah to be killed (breaking the 6th commandment). That one sin of covetousness led to breaking four other commandments. Achan coveted a beautiful set of clothes made in Babylon and some gold and silver from the spoils of Jericho (Josh 7). He hid them in disobedience to God's clear instructions, and this led to troubles for the entire army of Israelites. We also have the example of King Ahab who wanted the vineyard which was located next to his palace. It led to full scale conspiracies and misuse of the courts to have Naboth, the pious vineyard owner, convicted and killed (1 Kg 21). We can also think of Judas who for 30 pieces of silver betrayed the Lord. These all began with coveting, and the consequences in each of these instances are tragic.

Today, we live in what someone calls the "cult of the next thing." We are never satisfied with what we have, and we are always on the lookout for the newest design, newest model, newest look, newest gadgets. In a world of consumerism, the desires of our hearts seem bottomless. And the advertisement is so clever in bombarding us about the things that we cannot live without. We have been injected with what someone else calls "the prosperity drug." A young British pop singer, Lily Allen wrote in her song *The Fear*, "I want to be rich; and I want to have lots of money. I want loads of clothes and loads of diamonds; and I

heard people die while they are trying to find them ... And I am a weapon of mass consumption. And it's not my fault; it's how I'm programmed to function." People talk about the 5C's – cash, cars, condos, credit cards, and club. It is part of the prevailing mood of covetousness. We are always comparing with the one next door, and if there is none, it's the one on TV! Envy is a close cousin of covet.

### A ROOT PROBLEM

This last commandment, therefore, exposes a root of our human problem from which springs other evil actions, thoughts and intentions, conscious or unconscious. "For the love of money is a root of all evil" (1 Tim 6:10). The issue is not money per se, but the love of money. It is a major cause of corruption and deceit, and the reason for the present global economic downturn.

We should not imagine that such love or coveting of money is confined to the rich; the poor are subjected to it as well. Neither is it confined to 'worldly' Christians. Under the cloak of godliness, one may use it as a means for financial gain (1 Tim 6:5). Indeed, there had been many well-known preachers and pastors who were dragged and blinded by those desires, falling into its traps which had plunged them into destruction. Unholy desires turned into deadly desires. Martin Luther says that this last commandment is, in fact, addressed not to those whom the world considers to be wicked rogues, but to the most upright – to people who wish to be commended as honest and virtuous.

Alec Motyer rightly perceived that "the 10th commandment is where the Decalogue ends, but it is in fact, the point at which every breach of the law begins – when by 'our own evil desires' we are dragged away and enticed (Jas 1:14)". It exposes the reality of sin in the heart. The rich young ruler (in Mk 10) had everything going for him. Not only was he rich, he was a virtuous person – having obeyed the law, it seemed, from young. But when our Lord commanded him to sell all he had and give it to the poor, he

went away sad. Jesus had exposed his love for money. Covetousness is idolatry (Eph 5:5; Col 3:5), for the thing coveted becomes a god which controls one's life. A covetous heart, therefore, almost always dampens our quest for God. The love of this world has the inverse impact on love for God. More than 250 years ago, John Wesley observed, "I fear, wherever riches have increased, the essence of religion has decreased in the same proportion. Therefore I do not see how it is possible, in the nature of things, for any revival of religion to continue long. For religion must necessarily produce both industry and frugality, and these cannot but produce riches. But as riches increase, so will pride, anger, and love of the world in all its branches." Wesley's words have proven prophetic for our age.

The great lie of covetousness is the belief that the attainment of what we desire inordinately will bring happiness. John Rockefeller, one of the world's richest men in his time, was once asked by a reporter, "How much money is enough?" He replied with a sad smile, "Just a little more." The recent tragic death of the world's most popular pop singer, Michael Jackson, 50 years old, has shocked the world. He had the world at his feet, and yet happiness appeared so elusive, and he had to take a cocktail of drugs in order to help him find sleep.

Warren Wiersbe puts it in perspective when he wrote: "Money is the 'god of this world' and it empowers millions of people to enjoy life by living on substitutes. With money they can buy entertainment, but they can't buy joy. They can go to the drugstore and buy sleep, but they can't buy peace. Their money will attract a lot of acquaintances but very few real friends. Wealth gains them admiration and envy, but not love. It buys the best of medical services, but it can't buy health. Yes, it is good to have the things that money can buy, provided we don't lose the things that money can't buy."

### **CONTENTMENT**

The positive side of this commandment is that there is great value in contentment. Paul said to Timothy, "There is great gain in godliness with contentment" (1 Tim 6:6). Contentment steers one away from the temptation of using people as

objects for personal desires, frees one from deceptive talks and conversations, buttresses one against unhealthy relationships and speculative gains, and prevents one from being easily sucked into a spirit of consumerism. This commandment will also keep us from unethical or questionable means to achieve results. Simon (in Acts 8) wanted the ability to impart the Holy Spirit with all His powers, just as the apostles had. He offered money for that, but Peter made it clear that he was at the edge of a spiritual cliff top.

Contentment is also a key to happiness in life. We do not have to compare ourselves with others. We do not have to over-stress our lives to "keep up with the Joneses." C.H. Spurgeon has noted, "You say, 'If I had a little more, I should be very satisfied.' You make a mistake. If you are not content with what you have, you would not be satisfied if it were doubled." There will be far less quarrels and fights over things that we don't have that others might have. With food and clothing, we can be thankful, knowing that naked we will go (1 Tim 6:7-8). With contentment, we are free to rejoice with much or with little that the Lord has provided.

We may note from Phil 4:11-13 that contentment has little to do with our circumstances and more to do with our relationship with God. A contented person is one who finds confidence in God who will provide for all that is needed to accomplish His will. The issue of contentment is therefore a spiritual issue. Faith is the answer to our discontentment. Rather than sinking into worry and despair, our Lord counsels us to believe that "your Father knows that you need them" (Matt 6:32). Contentment, as Philip Ryken pointed out, means wanting what God wants for us rather than what we want for ourselves.

Indeed God is all we need. God had so loved us that He gave us His Son. If we have Him, we have everything. We have His promise in Heb 13:5, "Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.'" Commenting on this verse, J.I. Packer wrote, "To realize the promised presence of one's loving Lord,

who both orders one's circumstances and gives strength to cope with them, is the final secret of contentment." A contented person finds supreme delight in God, and in all that He has so planned. He is confident because of God. He is well able to say with the psalmist, "The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance" (Ps 16:6). Indeed, "he who has God and everything has no more than he who has God alone" (C.S. Lewis).

### **PURSUE GODLINESS**

Finally, contentment enables one to stay focused on one's pursuit and calling in life. There are many distractions in life, and if one is not contented, there is always the temptation to go into tangents. The apostle Paul kept his focus on the one thing – to know Christ supremely, and to make Him known. "For I decided," he wrote, "that while I was with you I would forget everything except Jesus Christ, the one who was crucified" (1 Cor 2:2 NLT). Unfortunately, for many, including preachers, that focus is lost, and the periphery has become central while Christ and Him crucified has become peripheral. For Paul, Christ is the pearl of great value for whom he was willing to lose everything. This enabled Paul to finish the race well. It will do the same for us too.

True contentment breeds a passion for God and His glory, for it focuses on the things that are truly eternal. We cannot, as our Lord made it plain, serve both God and mammon. Only one will control our thoughts and lives, and if we know where our true treasure lies, we will be willing to give everything to lay treasures where it truly counts, which is in heaven. Contentment therefore is a product of an eternal perspective. All treasures on earth are measured only in comparison with the eternal. "I value all things only by the price they shall gain in eternity," wrote John Wesley. This is why he called on his contemporaries to gain all they could, save all they could, and give all they could. "Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matt 6:33).

*Rev Dr Mark Chua*

*Associate Pastor*

*Chinese Methodist (Hokkien) Church, KL.*



Rev James and Mary Hoover

# In Tribute to Rev James M. Hoover

If ever there was a town in Malaysia that can claim to be founded by Christians and contributed greatly to its early development that town is Sibü in Sarawak.

The Star Saturday Metro of 16 August 2009 ran a feature on the part played especially by American Methodist missionary Rev James Hoover in the early development of Sibü town. He came to Sibü in 1903 to teach and lead the group of mostly Christian Foochow migrants who had settled there the previous two years under the leadership of Rev Wong Nai Siong.

Rev Hoover's ability and dedication to teach, organize and lead the community impressed Sir Charles Brooke, the second White Rajah of Sarawak, and was appointed the head of all Sarawak



**The Funnel at the Hoover memorial:** Signifies God bestowing his grace on Sibü.

Foochows making him their official representative to the government. He was affectionately called "Tuan Hoover of Borneo."

Besides spiritual guidance to the migrant settlers Rev and Mrs Mary Hoover also provided education for their children. They established boarding schools for boys and girls who were also taught singing, knitting, nursing and cooking.

Rev Hoover also introduced new ideas and technology to the town. He brought in new crops like pepper and rubber. When rice harvests became abundant he set up a rice

mill with a two-ton, 10-horsepower rice-huller. He set up the first agricultural school near Sibü to provide new and modern training for the farmers. He also introduced other machines like the circular saw, steam boat, ice-maker, wireless telegraph, electric generator and the bicycle.

When Tuan Hoover died in 1935 at the age of 63 flags were flown at half-mast in Sarawak in his honour and all schools were closed on the day of his funeral.

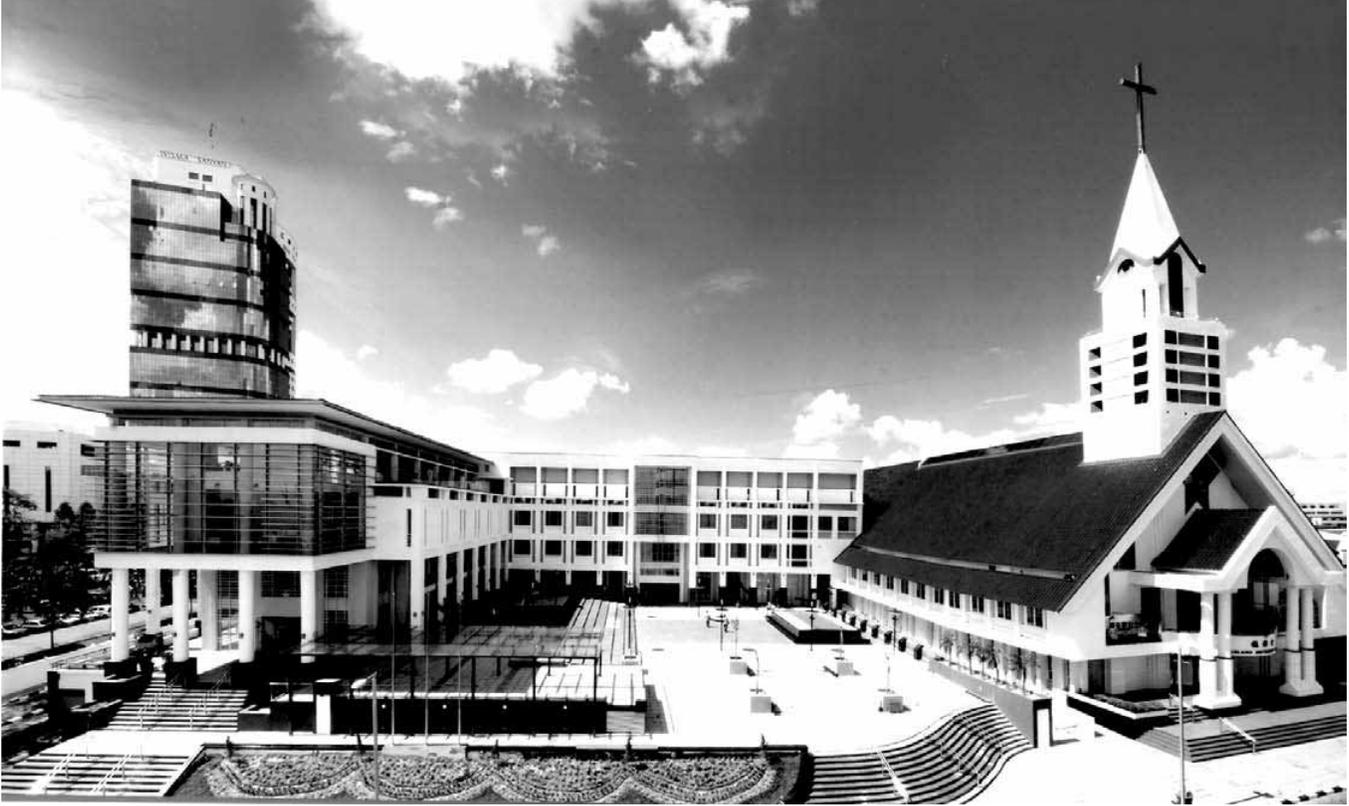
But even in the present day the Methodist churches and the town have not forgotten his place in Sibü's history. In 2007 the Rev James Matthew Hoover Memorial Garden was opened, funded by the Methodist church but built on state land designated as a public park and maintained by the Sibü Municipal Council. It is the only joint project by a local council and the Methodist Church in Malaysia, according to Mr Daniel Ngieng, deputy chairman of the Council.

In addition to this, Masland Methodist Church, Sibü, in direct line to the original church Hoover built in 1905, has completed its renovation with an open square that can accommodate 1000 people named after him. These are worthy memorials to the man who dedicated his life to the people of Sibü.



**Remembering a great man:** The Hoover memorial in Sibü

*(Based on the feature article by Philip Hii in the Star Saturday Metro, 15 August 2009)*



The Hoover Project with the square in the centre, next to Masland Methodist Church.

## Dedication of Hoover Square, Masland Methodist Church

Masland Methodist Church, Sibü today is the direct “descendant” of the original church started by Rev James Hoover in 1905. The original building was multipurpose: for school missionary work and a parsonage. In 1925, a new church was built with a great donation from Mrs Masland in the United States. Hence the name of the church.

Since then Masland Church has undergone several renovations and rebuilding. But it has remembered its roots in the work and contribution of Rev James Hoover. So it was in 2006 that the



Dato’ Sri Wong Soon Koh (second right) with Rev Dr Su Chii Ann, President of SCAC (right), and other church leaders viewing an exhibition on James Hoover’s work.

Hoover Project was launched, in recognition and remembrance of his immense contribution not only to Sibü but to Sarawak as well.

The opening ceremony of Hoover Square was officiated by YB Dato’ Sri Wong Soon Koh, Second Finance Minister and Minister of Environment and Public Health of Sarawak, on 16 August 2009. Representing the Chief Minister, Dato’ Sri Wong said James Hoover had given his best to Sarawak and contributed much to the society. His legacies will be long remembered.

The Hoover Square has an open ground next to Masland Church and can accommodate up to 1000 people for concerts and other such events. It is not fenced to make it accessible for the public to walk in and visit.

Besides the Hoover Square the whole complex also comprise a 2 ½ storey building with conference rooms, Sunday School classrooms, a prayer room, library and guest rooms for visitors. It houses the combined administration centre for the SCAC and SIAC and the Methodist Primary School. It has an underground car park and a roof-top garden.

The Hoover Project complex together with Masland Methodist Church is a landmark and worthy memorial to the legacy of Rev James Hoover.

*(Based on the report from Connection 30 August 2009, translated from Chinese by NKH. Editor)*

# Membership Figures Of The Whole Methodist Church In Malaysia

Annual Conference (AC)	Local Conferences or Churches (LC)	Preaching Points	Pastors & Ministerial Staff under Appointment by the AC <sup>1</sup>	AC Ministerial Students in Training	Missionaries	
					Missionaries Appointed Overseas by AC	Missionaries Sent Out by LC
	A	B	C	D	E	F
CAC	112	54	116	22	2	Nil
SCAC	96	28	154	46	25	Nil
SIAC	46	471 <sup>3</sup>	46	14	Nil	Nil
SPAC	11	8	36	5	Nil	Nil
TAC	47	48	52	6	1	10
TRAC	38	6	38	4	Nil	21
SMC	32	8	29	8	Nil	Nil
<b>Total</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>623</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>31</b>

## Methodist Women Conference

• Tamil Annual Conference • 22 – 24 August 2009

The Conference, organised by the Selangor District of the Methodist women was successfully held in Quality Hotel Shah Alam. A total of 201 delegates, observers and guests participated. District ladies under the able leadership of Mrs Kany Jayapal did a splendid job.

The TAC President spoke on "Much Grace" at the Opening Service and declared the 34th Session officially open. Greetings were received from the Conference Lay Leader, Mr Tharmapal and The Conference Secretary, Mr Joseph Jayapal.

The Guest Speaker, Brother Selwyn Sironmoney from South India, held the ladies spellbound with his rhetorical skills in presenting the message of the basics of a good Christian home and the role a woman plays in either making or breaking it.

Business sessions were carried out very smoothly. The General Conference Methodist Women President, Datin Judy Lau joined us at the last Business session and gave her greetings.

The Workshop on Parenting conducted by the President, Rev C Jayaraj and his wife Vijayatarra was very informative and educative and helped the ladies to relax amidst the very tight programme.

Selangor District took the prize in the Bible Quiz and the overall best participant was Mrs Rebecca Raja of Central District.

The Talentime held on Sunday night was a revelation of the numerous hidden talents our ladies are gifted with. The skits, solos and poetry, although presented in the most hilarious way, set our minds thinking. As usual, "Selangor Singgari" held the day.



The finale was a joyful joget to praise our Lord by ladies whose ages ranged from 30 to 65!

Although the programme was very tight, the ladies found avenues to have a good time sharing with one another.

May God bless the TAC Methodist Women Exco and the Selangor District for all the hard work put in.

To God be the Glory!

**Vasantha Chelladurai**  
TMC, Ulu Klang

# 2008

Membership			Attendance at Sunday Church Worship	Attendance in Sunday Schools
Confirmed Members	Preparatory Members <sup>2</sup>	Baptized, Above 16 & Not Confirmed		
G	H	I	J	K
24,344	1,634	891	18,023	5,919
28,041	38,652	21,885	26,623	10,583
29,453	16,091	651	12,296	598
1,742	1,092	0	2,133	476
8,228	1,992	178	5,617	1,733
14,973	288	45	10,314	2,011
3,090	NA	833	2,257	60
<b>109,871</b>	<b>59,749</b>	<b>24,483</b>	<b>77,263</b>	<b>21,380</b>

1. This includes all Traveling Elders, Ministers on Trial, Approved Supply Pastors, and those appointed to various Boards, Social Outreach, etc. within Malaysia by each Annual Conference. But it does not include all staff appointed by local churches themselves, or those serving as missionaries overseas.
2. Those children who have been baptized, but not confirmed, and are still under 16 years old. (Anyone over 16 years old and still not confirmed are not counted)
3. Most of the worship services in SIAC are conducted in longhouses. They are considered preaching points.

## மெதடிஸ்ட் பென்கள் மாநாடு

இப்பென்கள் மாநாடு மிகவும் சிறப்பாக சாஆலாம் குவாலிடி ஓட்டலில் ஆகஸ்ட் 22 முதல் 24 வரை நடைபெற்றது. 201 பராளர்களும் பார்வையாளர்களும் கலந்துக்கொண்டனர். திருமதி கணி ஜெயபால் தலைமைத்துவத்தில் ஏற்பாட்டுக்குழுவினர் மிகவும் சிறப்பாக செயல் பட்டனர். தமிழ் வருடாந்தர மாநாட்டுத் தலைவரால் அதிகாரபூர்வமாக திரக்கப்பட்டு, தொடக்க ஆராதனையிலும் அவரே செய்தியையும் கொடுத்தார்.

சிறப்பு பேச்சாளராக சகோ. சேல்வின் சிரோன்மணி தமிழ்நாட்டிலிருந்து வந்திருந்தார். கடைசி நாளில், பொது மாநாட்டு பென்கள் தலைவி, டத்தின் ஜூடி லவ்வும் கலந்துக்கொண்டு வாழ்த்துகள் கூறினார்.

மாநாட்டுத் தலைவரும் அவர் தம் மனைவியும் நடத்திய பட்டறை மிகவும் ஆசீர்வாதமாக இருந்தது. வேத வினா போட்டியில் சிலாங்கூர் மானிலம் வெற்றிபெற்றது. தனிநபர் வெற்றியாளர் திருமதி

தாலந்து நேரத்தில் நம் பென்களின் சிறப்பு அம்சங்களை வெளிப்படுத்த நல்ல தருனமாக இருந்தது.

மிகவும் கடினமாக உழைத்த சிலாங்கூர் மானில பென்களும் பென்கள் மாநாட்டு குழுவினரையும் தேவன் ஆசீர்வதிப்பாராக.

வசந்தா செல்லதுரை

தி எம் சி உளு கிளாங்



34<sup>th</sup> TAC – METHODIST WOMEN CONFERENCE  
August 22-24, 2009

# 第一届宣教与布道营

## 生命即使命,使命即生命

(The first Mission and Evangelism Conference  
– Life is the Mission, Mission is the Life.)

报导: 杨证强



The main speaker was  
the General Director  
of Food for the  
Hungry Hong Kong.

马来西亚基督教卫理公会华人年议会宣教部与布道部一起为主的福音同工, 今年7月7至9日假马六甲皇冠酒店联合举办首届宣教与布道营——“生命即使命, 使命即生命”, 参加的牧师与弟兄姐妹达212人。

香港饥援 (Food for the Hungry Hong Kong) 总干事郑峰生先生是华人年议会在缅甸南板的宣教伙伴, 他在营会上指出, 上帝, 是爱穷人的上帝; 爱穷人, 便是爱上帝, 拥抱穷人, 便是拥抱上帝。郑峰生自称来自一间中产阶级的教会, 当初被母会派到新的地方植堂, 他和其他会友根本没有心理准备传福音和服侍贫穷及有许多问题的基层家庭。但是, 当教会开始牧养基层人士, 许多人悔改信主。因此, 他再也不怕接触穷人。

林巴拿巴牧师来自东亚国家, 也是年议会宣教伙伴之一。他陈述教会在东亚国家仍面对政府官员的迫害和打压的情况。林巴拿巴牧师曾经在警察来到之前, 三分钟之内为两百多名村民

施洗 (他奉父、子与圣灵的名为他们施洗, 全部人一起自动浸在河里)。他也曾在森林里举办五百多人的查经聚会, 并成功避开警察的追捕。他甚至经常逃过警察的检阅, 将印刷完毕的圣经送到有需要的村子里, 如用婚礼的新娘车载送。许多次, 他心里害怕, 但是神保护他。

宣教与布道营旨在鼓励更多教会参与海外宣教及本地布道的工作, 扩展神国。宣教委员会主席黄敬映弟兄在会上分享年会宣教的策略, 鼓励每一间堂会及布道所都参与宣教, 并且去体验宣教区的需要。此外, 年会一直致力培育当地的传道者, 并在宣教区建立教堂和传道屋, 供应当地的需要。年会也寻找国际间合作伙伴, 同时帮助宣教区早日经济独立, 组成卫理公会。本会驻泰北宣教士吴启麟牧师报告泰北目前共有23间教会及22位传道者。现阶段进行的事工包括培训、探访、布道等。除外, 本会也全力支持万宏的学校与福音事工。缅甸南板是新开拓的宣教区, 布道部主席钱本华

弟兄在大会上提说, 华人年议会在过去三年共成立了12间布道所。此外, 他也提出布道策略, 盼望各教区能带动牧区牧者、宣教部主席及执事们能落实开始所拟定的新布道所目标。

三天两夜的营会中, 盘忠昌传道及鲁金兰传道从泰北和缅甸万宏远道而来, 分享宣教区的情况。凌向明牧师及陈观凤牧师也个别分享各自教会在宣教事工上的心得。莫泽川会长更呼吁教会能成立医护人员团契, 组织医疗短宣队, 帮助提升宣教区的卫生水平。另外, 太平牧区在十八丁小镇及福建堂在莫珍歪进行的布道工作也非常出色。

宣教与布道的工作并不容易, 林巴拿巴牧师在营会结束前勉励营员们将身体献上, 当作活祭 (罗12:1-2)。他说, 如今我们是自愿献上, 没人强迫, 但我们有圣灵的火焚烧我们的生命, 使我们能成为馨香的祭。

# New Luther Centre Dedicated

The Lutheran Church in Malaysia and Singapore held a special Dedication and Thanksgiving Service for the new Luther Center, which replaced the old Luther House in Section 14 of Petaling Jaya, on 31st August.

The new church facility which has six floors, with a one-thousand sitting capacity, auditorium and a chapel, was built with the intention to serve the needs of the Lutheran church and the wider Christian community. It will also house the LCMS Headquarters and Glad Sounds bookshop.

The service was especially meaningful as it brought together the former retired Bishops, missionaries and other ecumenical representatives.

Preceding the Dedication Service, the LCMS concluded its 30th Biennial Convention in the new premise. Bishop Philip Lok was re-elected as Episcopal head of the church for another four years.

“The whole project took 14 years to envision and actualize, and now it stands to the glory of God. We hope Luther Centre will touch the hearts of all who will use the building,” said Bishop Lok in his introductory words of welcome.

*(Reprinted from the Council of Churches Malaysia website. Editor)*



Bishop Philip Lok (left) with former retired Bishop Gideon Chang



Dedication of the Luther Centre

# Inter-Methodist Cooperation to Open Roma Center in Hungary



Primary school



From left to right: Pastor Shin Seon Hak, Korean Methodist Church Budapest; Pastor Shin Young-Dae, “Heavenly Dream Methodist Church” from Incheon/Korea; Dr. Won Jae Lee, Secretary of the Korean Mission; Bishop Heinrich Bolleter, Geneva Secretary of the World Methodist Council; Superintendent Istvan Csernak, United Methodist Church in Hungary.

For several years the Korean Methodist Church in Budapest/Hungary was reaching out to a Roma Community in Southwest Hungary.

Kürtöspuszta is a very poor Roma village with 240 inhabitants. In 2004, after the primary school in the village was closed down, the Korean Church bought the school including a big lot of land surrounding the building. With the support from Korea the building was renovated and is serving now as center for the Roma congregation in the region.

The project is run by different Methodist partners: The Korean

Methodist Church and its mission in Hungary, under the leadership of Reverend Shin Seon Hak (Budapest), the United Methodist Church in Hungary through its local church in Kaposzvar, and the “Heavenly Dream Methodist Church” from Incheon/Korea. Special programs for children and youth are under the supervision of the United Methodist Pastor in Kaposzvar, Reverend Zsoltan Kurdi. Worships are led by the Korean Church.

When a Korean delegation of some twenty persons was traveling through Europe to visit the missionary programs on the Continent the time

had come to celebrate the dedication of the new center in Kürtöspuszta.

The Geneva Secretary of the World Methodist Council, Bishop Heinrich Bolleter was delivering the sermon on 1. Corinthians 3, 11. The one foundation, Jesus Christ, makes the cooperation by the different partners in this project possible. This is also a Christian witness in a society, where minorities like the Roma people are still marginalized.

*Submitted by Heinrich Bolleter, Geneva Secretary of the World Methodist Council*

# The Edinburgh 2010 Study Process for ASEAN and Sri Lanka

Seminari Theoloji Malaysia (STM), 8th - 11th June 2009

1,200 representatives of Protestant denominations and missionary societies from around the world gathered in Edinburgh, Scotland for the World Missionary Conference in 1910.

It was both the culmination of nineteenth-century missions and the beginning of the modern missionary movement and ecumenism.

A century later, the Edinburgh 2010 conference will be convened, to celebrate the centenary year of the historic conference and also to see the direction for Christian mission in the 21st century.

As part of the worldwide process leading to this conference STM hosted the Edinburgh 2010 Study Process for Asean and Sri Lanka with the theme "Mission as Reconciliation in Pluralistic Context." In our context of religious plurality where Christian faith remains a minority, the issues are challenging and urgent for Asian churches and Christians to be the catalyst of the gospel of Christ amidst various conflicts in diverse religious, cultural, and ethnic composition.

Three keynote speakers, Dr David Shenk from the United States, Dr Vinoth Ramachandra from Sri Lanka and Rev Dr Paulus Sugeng Widjaja from Indonesia, presented their papers elaborating on the theme, providing a theological framework for reconciliation as the message of the gospel, analyses of the factors giving rise to social, ethnic and religious conflicts in our region, and sharing case studies of the praxis of reconciliation from around the globe and in ASEAN countries.

In partnership with Christ as the King over His Kingdom, we are involved in God's mission to reconcile the world and the people to Him. God initiates the ministry of reconciliation, and He invites us to join Him in peace-making, bridge-building, and bearing witness to the peace and reconciliation in Christ. Through us, God brings hope, healing and transformation to lost and broken lives in His ultimate purposes in redemption the world.

Disciples of Jesus are called to be people of peace and reconciliation among the nations. The ultimate reconciliation with God our

Creator is not separable from the reconciliation within ourselves, in our relationship with one another, and with all creation. Acceptance is the central tenet of reconciliation. Jesus demonstrated table fellowship with the lost, the least and the last, with humility and vulnerability; and ultimately He paid a costly price by His death on the cross (Phil 2:5-8).



Participants of various denominational churches from Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Germany, New Zealand, United States, United Kingdom, and Malaysia.

Conflicts, oppressions, marginalization and violent confrontations have marked many of the countries in Asean and Sri Lanka. The church as the redeemed and reconciled people of God is called to be the agents of reconciliation, healing and hope for those scarred by these conflicts and violations. Reconciliation is costly. It calls for the virtues demonstrated by Jesus, the vulnerability and willingness to open ourselves in humility; to empty and deny ourselves; to share our lives with those for whom Christ died.

It means that churches must first be communities of reconciliation where we must demonstrate the presence of the Kingdom among ourselves. Churches and Christians must recognize the need for continual self-examination, forgiveness, repentance and renewal among ourselves. We must confess our failures of divisions and conflicts, and prejudice towards others. In order to be used by God as His agent of reconciliation and instrument of peace, we must first grow into solidarity with one another, learning to embody reconciliation among ourselves as well as with others.

## **Janice Tay**

*(Ms Janice Tay, a member of Trinity Methodist Church Petaling Jaya, attended the Study Process. This is a slightly revised and shortened version of the article she wrote. Editor)*



# TRAC MISSIONS CONFERENCE 2009

<b>DATES</b>	: 9TH ~ 11TH OCT. 2009 ( Fri till Sun )	<b>Speakers</b>	: Bob Lopez – former Chairman, Philippines Missionary Association. Pastor Ray – local missions worker.
<b>VENUE</b>	: IPOH TOWER REGENCY HOTEL 27, Jln Dato Seri Ahmad Said 30450 Ipoh, Perak.	<b>Cost</b>	: Rm 230 per person on twin sharing basis. Rm 120 per person – day participant. (limited meals for all)
<b>Tel</b>	: 05 – 2086 888.	<b>Registrars</b>	: Ms Chan Lai Ping/Wee Chee Peng Of Wesley Methodist Church, Ipoh
<b>Theme</b>	: “ Discipling The Nations “	<b>Emails</b>	: wmcipoh@streamyx.com : lpchan@yahoo.com
<b>Focus</b>	: Frontier missions.		

## Recruitment Notice

Wesley Methodist Johor Bahru is looking for suitable candidates for the following positions:

1. **Coordinator of Christian Education**
2. **Coordinator of Social Services and Welfare**
3. **Coordinator of Missions Work and Evangelism**
4. **Church Caretaker**

For positions **No. 1, 2** and **3**, the right candidate must meet the following requirements:

- Committed Christian who is able to work well with church members
- Resourceful, enthusiastic and dedicated towards the Ministry
- Outstanding interpersonal skills, especially ability to communicate effectively with people at many different levels
- Possess a valid Local Preacher's Licence (LPL) or its equivalent or in the process of working towards an LPL;
- Ability to train, counsel and advise church members
- Good working knowledge of computer skills

For position **No. 4**, the right candidate must meet the following requirement:

- Able to work from 7.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m. daily
- Committed Christian who is able to work well with church members
- Flexible in doing various tasks for the church, and taking care of the church building and compound

Please send your application, complete with resume and recent photograph to:

**The Pastor**  
**Wesley Methodist Church**  
20 Jalan Ungu 7  
Taman Pelangi  
80400 Johor Bahru  
Email: jbwesley@streamyx.com

Closing date is **30 November 2009**. Only shortlisted candidates will be called for interview.



PRESS STATEMENT  
THE CHRISTIAN FEDERATION OF MALAYSIA  
NATIONAL DAY MESSAGE

**FORGING AHEAD TO BUILD A VISION OF 1MALAYSIA**

Together with all Malaysians we celebrate our 52nd National Day with the theme of **1Malaysia : People First. Performance Now**. We invite Christians throughout the country to join their fellow Malaysians in offering prayers of thanksgiving to Almighty God for His kind mercies upon us throughout these 52 years of nationhood and pray that He may continue to shower His blessings upon us as we forge ahead in building a 1Malaysia.

Our founding fathers worked hard to bequeath to us a nation which respected and accepted all peoples as Malaysians. They gave us a constitutional democratic framework to undergird our nation and to enable us to build a country that is for all irrespective of race, language, religion or creed.

Today we stand at the crossroads of change for our nation. We cannot take for granted what we have so long enjoyed. It is our responsibility to re-double our efforts to ensure that Malaysia develops in the way we desire for the sake of our children, our children’s children and for the generations of Malaysians to come.

Malaysians uphold the Federal Constitution as the foundational document of our nation and have embraced the principles of the Rukunegara to live in peace and harmony with one another and to seek the welfare and well-being of everyone.

Our new Prime Minister Dato’ Seri Mohd. Najib bin Razak has shown the way and brought a new and fresh direction as he begins his term of office. His hope and desire of a **1Malaysia : People First. Performance Now** speaks to us of his vision and determination to see a united Malaysia with a renewed and revitalised set of standards for what it is to be Malaysia. His National Key Result Areas (NKRAs) and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) tell us of his resolve to focus on matters of concern to Malaysians and to raise the bar in doing things well for our nation.

Together with our Prime Minister and our government, may we move forward to build a 1Malaysia free of the preoccupation with race, language, quotas and religion. It is a vision of 1Malaysia where all of us are Malaysians and treated equally as such. May we pray and work alongside him to do things the right way for the benefit of all Malaysians for “where there is no vision, the people perish” (Proverbs 29 : 18, KJV).

Today, more than ever, we need renewal and rejuvenation in our government, our political parties, and all our public institutions so that they may fulfill the aspirations of all Malaysians with honour and integrity the trust placed upon them by all Malaysians. We pray that all men and women in positions of responsibility and power will see to it that they themselves and these institutions they belong to act justly and in accordance with their mandate especially in promoting, protecting and defending the rights, welfare and well-being of all who call Malaysia home including minorities and foreigners in our midst.

As Christians let us continue to pray for the Prime Minister and the government in accordance with Psalm 72 that the Prime Minister be endowed with justice and righteousness from Almighty God so that he may govern in righteousness and justice and bring about prosperity for the people, defend the afflicted and save the children of the needy.

We pledge to work with the government to further the cause of national unity, sincere and mutual respect for all peoples of different religious faiths, a caring and compassionate society, a vibrant democracy, a strong economy for the prosperity of all and good, transparent and accountable public institutions to serve the people.

The churches join all Malaysians in praying for the good health and well-being of our beloved King and Queen, the various Sultans, the Prime Minister and his Cabinet, the Mentris Besar and Chief Ministers of the states, our parliamentarians and all members of the state assemblies.

Our desire is to see continued prosperity with peace, justice and stability and the strengthening of the bonds of friendship and harmony among all peoples and religions in Malaysia.

Dated this 27th August 2009

Bishop Ng Moon Hing  
Chairman

Rev. Dr. Thomas Phillips  
Vice-Chairman

Elder Kong Yeng Phooi  
Vice-Chairman

Bishop Julius Dusin Gitom  
Vice-Chairman





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## SPREADING SCRIPTURAL HOLINESS, TRANSFORMING THE NATION.

Mr Ponraj (right)  
seen here with  
Christopher Cheah  
at the Methodist HQ.



## Quadrennium Logo (2009 – 2012)

The quadrennium logo was picked from a total of 13 entries submitted for the competition. The winning design is by Mr Ponraj Navamani, from TMC Kuala Lumpur who received the RM500 cash prize from Ms Jenny Qua, the Executive Secretary at the Methodist HQ. Mr Ponraj is a freelance art director with his own company Slingshot Advertising.

The meaning of the logo is explained below:

- The colours red, blue and yellow represent the nation (the colours of the Malaysian flag).
- The red base symbolizes the Word of God (Scripture)
- The yellow flame symbolizes the Holy Spirit (Holiness)
- The 6 point starburst symbolizes the spreading of Scriptural Holiness to all the 6 conferences while the centre is the cross symbolizing our Christian faith.

The gradient colour from dark blue to light blue is to symbolize transformation.

>> from page 1

3. The Penans are eager for their children to receive education. When we visited them during the exploration trip, the head of the village asked: When will the teacher come? We need to grasp this opportunity. If they know how to read BM, they can read the BM Bible.

4. The Penans are ready to receive Christ. When we went to Long Menapa in January, more than 20 Penan men accepted Christ during the BM evangelistic rally. Later we heard the news from Rev Wong Kiu Ngouk that when some government officials visited them, they professed they are Christians already.

In another longhouse, Long Luhah, more than 20 adults and children also accepted Christ. A few years ago, there were SIB pastors ministering to them but no more now. Are you willing to stand in the gap for the Penans?

5. Most of these 1,500 Penans are atheists. A small number believe in their traditional Bungan religion.

We need to share the good news of Jesus Christ to them. I believe you do not want to see them embrace another religion.

6. The Lord has touched the heart of Shin Yang Company to open the way and prepare transport for us. The road is ready. Are you willing to respond to the call of God and go on to this mission road?

7. Time is running out. We have only about 5 years before the Murum water dam is built and the forest submerged in water. Most probably, the Penans will have to move away from their land. We need to have enough missionaries to work among them in these 5 years. None of these 1,500 has been baptised. We need missionaries to be salt and light among them, to teach them God's word, help them to know God and be baptised.

### Are You Willing to Go?

Are you touched by the need of the Penans? Is God calling you now? We

have many church members who want to be professionals like doctors, lawyers, business men, teachers and others. Can we also consider being a missionary?

Are material things and enjoyment in life really that important to us as disciples of Jesus Christ? Jesus taught us that man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God (Matt 4:4).

Jesus Christ has died for you. He loves you so much. What can you do for Jesus Christ among the Penans? I use the vision Jesus has given me of Him waiting for us to work with Him among the Penans. When are you going?

Please contact Rev Law Hui Seng, Chairman of the Board of Evangelism, Sarawak Chinese Annual Conference, 012-8770303, 085-662660 for more information.

*Article was written in Chinese and translated by Winnie. From Connection 15 July 2009.*